THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) to (d) While necessary payments towards the cost of the identified site for the Very Low Power TV Transmitter (VLPT) project at Basot had already been made to the District authorities in Almora in March'96, the said site is yet to be handed-over by the concerned authorities to Doordarshan for the implementation of the VLPT project. The matter relating to early handing over of the site to Doordarshan is being actively followed up with the District authorities.

The installation work of VLPT project at Basot is expected to be completed in 1997 subject to the handing over of the identified site to Doordarshan by September'1996 by the District authorities.

Arrangements for HIV-Free Blood Donation and Blood Transfusion

*532. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether both blood donors and donees have become too hesitant and apprehensive to donate or receive blood transfusions, in the context of increasing HIV infection reports; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to provide fool-proof arrangements for HIV-free blood donation and blood transfusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Public awareness about safe blood products has increased. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act/ Rules provides for mandatory testing of blood for Human immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV). All the 715 public sector blood banks in the country have either the required testing facilities for immedate testing of HIV positivity of blood samples or they are linked to 154 Zonal Blood Testing Centres (ZBTCs) where they can have the samples checked before transfusion. Rapid Test Kits are also provided to all the District Level Blood Banks.

Wrong handling of 'Monsoon Magic Offer' of Air India

*533. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Monsoon Magic Offer' of Air India has not become popular;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of starting it in June 1996 no one availed of this offer because of wrong handling of this scheme by Air India;

(c) whether it is a fact that people who are not trained in goods marketing and without any proper experience were made incharge of this scheme;

(d) on whom will the responsibility of failure of this scheme be put; and

(e) what steps are being taken to make the commercial and marketing wing of Air India more effective?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) No, Sir, There has been positive response from the travel trade and passengers to the scheme resulting in higher loads and increased revenues.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Dividend paid by UTI to investors under US-64

*534. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.T.I. has paid dividend of 20 per cent to its investors under Unit Scheme-64 for the year 1995-96;